

✓ A TRUE  
INFORMATION W 974

To the Nation, from the People called 2

QUAKERS.

Being a Brief account of the

PROCEEDINGS

Of some of the *Magistrates* in and  
about this *City of L O N D O N,*

Against the aforesaid People, from the third  
day of the 5th Moneth called *July*, to the last day  
of the 6th Moneth called *August*, 1664.

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Composed and Published for Satisfaction of those who  
desire to be Informed Concerning this Matter.

By *J. Cook*  
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*And Haman said unto the King, there is a certain people scattered a-  
broad and dispersed amongst the people in all the Provinces of thy  
Kingdom; and their Laws are divers from all people, neither keep  
they the Kings Laws, therefore it is not for the Kings profit to suf-  
fer them: If it please the King, let it be written that they may be  
destroyed, &c. Ester. 3. 8, 9. Let all who read consider what this  
Counsel brought forth.*

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Printed in the Year 1664.

## И О Т А М Я О И И

## BA 31110

PROCEEDINGS

1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1015, 1016, 1017, 1018, 1019, 1020, 1021, 1022, 1023, 1024, 1025, 1026, 1027, 1028, 1029, 1030, 1031, 1032, 1033, 1034, 1035, 1036, 1037, 1038, 1039, 1040, 1041, 1042, 1043, 1044, 1045, 1046, 1047, 1048, 1049, 1050, 1051, 1052, 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1059, 1060, 1061, 1062, 1063, 1064, 1065, 1066, 1067, 1068, 1069, 1070, 1071, 1072, 1073, 1074, 1075, 1076, 1077, 1078, 1079, 1080, 1081, 1082, 1083, 1084, 1085, 1086, 1087, 1088, 1089, 1090, 1091, 1092, 1093, 1094, 1095, 1096, 1097, 1098, 1099, 1100, 1101, 1102, 1103, 1104, 1105, 1106, 1107, 1108, 1109, 1110, 1111, 1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1117, 1118, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122, 1123, 1124, 1125, 1126, 1127, 1128, 1129, 1130, 1131, 1132, 1133, 1134, 1135, 1136, 1137, 1138, 1139, 1140, 1141, 1142, 1143, 1144, 1145, 1146, 1147, 1148, 1149, 1150, 1151, 1152, 1153, 1154, 1155, 1156, 1157, 1158, 1159, 1160, 1161, 1162, 1163, 1164, 1165, 1166, 1167, 1168, 1169, 1170, 1171, 1172, 1173, 1174, 1175, 1176, 1177, 1178, 1179, 1180, 1181, 1182, 1183, 1184, 1185, 1186, 1187, 1188, 1189, 1190, 1191, 1192, 1193, 1194, 1195, 1196, 1197, 1198, 1199, 1200, 1201, 1202, 1203, 1204, 1205, 1206, 1207, 1208, 1209, 1210, 1211, 1212, 1213, 1214, 1215, 1216, 1217, 1218, 1219, 1220, 1221, 1222, 1223, 1224, 1225, 1226, 1227, 1228, 1229, 1230, 1231, 1232, 1233, 1234, 1235, 1236, 1237, 1238, 1239, 1240, 1241, 1242, 1243, 1244, 1245, 1246, 1247, 1248, 1249, 1250, 1251, 1252, 1253, 1254, 1255, 1256, 1257, 1258, 1259, 1260, 1261, 1262, 1263, 1264, 1265, 1266, 1267, 1268, 1269, 1270, 1271, 1272, 1273, 1274, 1275, 1276, 1277, 1278, 1279, 1280, 1281, 1282, 1283, 1284, 1285, 1286, 1287, 1288, 1289, 1290, 1291, 1292, 1293, 1294, 1295, 1296, 1297, 1298, 1299, 1300, 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, 1306, 1307, 1308, 1309, 1310, 1311, 1312, 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, 1317, 1318, 1319, 1320, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1324, 1325, 1326, 1327, 1328, 1329, 1330, 1331, 1332, 1333, 1334, 1335, 1336, 1337, 1338, 1339, 1340, 1341, 1342, 1343, 1344, 1345, 1346, 1347, 1348, 1349, 1350, 1351, 1352, 1353, 1354, 1355, 1356, 1357, 1358, 1359, 1360, 1361, 1362, 1363, 1364, 1365, 1366, 1367, 1368, 1369, 1370, 1371, 1372, 1373, 1374, 1375, 1376, 1377, 1378, 1379, 1380, 1381, 1382, 1383, 1384, 1385, 1386, 1387, 1388, 1389, 1390, 1391, 1392, 1393, 1394, 1395, 1396, 1397, 1398, 1399, 1400, 1401, 1402, 1403, 1404, 1405, 1406, 1407, 1408, 1409, 1410, 1411, 1412, 1413, 1414, 1415, 1416, 1417, 1418, 1419, 1420, 1421, 1422, 1423, 1424, 1425, 1426, 1427, 1428, 1429, 1430, 1431, 1432, 1433, 1434, 1435, 1436, 1437, 1438, 1439, 1440, 1441, 1442, 1443, 1444, 1445, 1446, 1447, 1448, 1449, 1450, 1451, 1452, 1453, 1454, 1455, 1456, 1457, 1458, 1459, 1460, 1461, 1462, 1463, 1464, 1465, 1466, 1467, 1468, 1469, 1470, 1471, 1472, 1473, 1474, 1475, 1476, 1477, 1478, 1479, 1480, 1481, 1482, 1483, 1484, 1485, 1486, 1487, 1488, 1489, 1490, 1491, 1492, 1493, 1494, 1495, 1496, 1497, 1498, 1499, 1500, 1501, 1502, 1503, 1504, 1505, 1506, 1507, 1508, 1509, 1510, 1511, 1512, 1513, 1514, 1515, 1516, 1517, 1518, 1519, 1520, 1521, 1522, 1523, 1524, 1525, 1526, 1527, 1528, 1529, 1530, 1531, 1532, 1533, 1534, 1535, 1536, 1537, 1538, 1539, 1540, 1541, 1542, 1543, 1544, 1545, 1546, 1547, 1548, 1549, 1550, 1551, 1552, 1553, 1554, 1555, 1556, 1557, 1558, 1559, 1560, 1561, 1562, 1563, 1564, 1565, 1566, 1567, 1568, 1569, 1570, 1571, 1572, 1573, 1574, 1575, 1576, 1577, 1578, 1579, 1580, 1581, 1582, 1583, 1584, 1585, 1586, 1587, 1588, 1589, 1590, 1591, 1592, 1593, 1594, 1595, 1596, 1597, 1598, 1599, 1600, 1601, 1602, 1603, 1604, 1605, 1606, 1607, 1608, 1609, 1610, 1611, 1612, 1613, 1614, 1615, 1616, 1617, 1618, 1619, 1620, 1621, 1622, 1623, 1624, 1625, 1626, 1627, 1628, 1629, 1630, 1631, 1632, 1633, 1634, 1635, 1636, 1637, 1638, 1639, 1640, 1641, 1642, 1643, 1644, 1645, 1646, 1647, 1648, 1649, 1650, 1651, 1652, 1653, 1654, 1655, 1656, 1657, 1658, 1659, 1660, 1661, 1662, 1663, 1664, 1665, 1666, 1667, 1668, 1669, 1670, 1671, 1672, 1673, 1674, 1675, 1676, 1677, 1678, 1679, 1680, 1681, 1682, 16

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*[Faint, illegible handwritten text]*

*A true Information to the Nation, from  
the People called Quakers, &c.*

**M**Any and great have been the sufferings and persecutions that we the people and servants of the Lord called Quakers, have undergone and sustained since we were gathered out of the world to be a peculiar people unto God; and many Laws and unrighteous Decrees have been made and prosecuted against us by every power as they have come up one after another, thereby thinking to root us out from being a people unto God in this Nation, or to destroy and root out the holy seed and righteous plant which the Lord God Almighty hath planted in us and amongst us; and we have even been the Butt, for all the Babylonish Archers to shut at, not only in this land or our Nativity, but also in every Region where the Lord by his power hath brought us to bear witness of his name and power: and we have been a ways lookt upon by many as a sect (as the Apostles were in their days) and so have been every where spoken against, and Antichrist in his Members hath bestirred himself even where ever we come, to raise persecution against us, and to seek our total ruine and extirpation if possible: and thus great opposition we have met with on every hand, and these things we have sustained not for any evil doing, but only for the exercise of our Consciences in Matters of Worship and Faith towards God, but the Lord who first separated us from our Mothers womb, and gathered us from amongst the men of this Generation to be a people to himself; he hath been always with us, and in all our sufferings which we have sustained from the hands of our cruel enemies, he hath given us courage, and boldness, and valour, so that we have been able to bear all things with patience, and he hath clothed us with the Armour of his own righteousness, and put the sword of the spirit into our hands, with which we have wrestled with the spiritual wickedness that has been in the high places,

places, and they have not prevailed against us, to bring to pass their several Decrees and Determinations, but through the power of the Lord we have conquered and overcome, and have seen the end of many who have risen up against us: And through all these tryals, and sufferings, and persecutions, the word of God hath grown and encreased, and the blessed truth which we profess and bear witness to, hath greatly flourished, and spread forth its self, and many have been and are daily gathered into it, and our number is daily added unto and encreased, blessed be the Lord Almighty, so that we do find (as the Apostle did in his day) that our bands and sufferings serve for the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ, and for the exaltation of the worthy name of the Lord, which is the main thing we aim at; so that what ever become of these our earthly Tabernacles, or how ever they may be disposed of; we have our desire and expectation, in that the truth prospereth and flourisheth: And we do not at all doubt nor question but that as the Lord hath been with us in times past unto this day and hath born us up in the midst of our sufferings and tryals, which we have undergone for his name sakes; and as he hath renowned his worthy name, and spread forth his truth thereby, so he will be always with us to sustain us, bear us up, and carry us through all sufferings and tribulations whatsoever, that (for the future) may come upon us for the Gospels sake, and that our sufferings shall still (as in times past) make for the furtherance of the glorious Gospel of Christ, and for the spreading, exaltation, and growing of his blessed truth which we profess and bear witness to: And in the faith of this we are resolved to rest in patience, waiting to receive the end thereof, and we doubt not but there are several thousands in this Nation that are like minded with us in this matter.

And now it is in my heart (for the Information and Satisfaction of such who may desire to be informed concerning the present proceedings of the Magistrates in and about this City of *London*, against us the people of God called *Quakers*) to give a brief Relation of the Heads of their proceedings, that the unrighteousness and cruelty thereof may be rightly understood.

The

The third day after the late Act came in force (which was made to prevent Seditious Meetings of such, who under colour and pretence of Religious Worship, do in their Meetings Plot and Contrive Insurrections) Being the first day of the Week, and the third day of the 5th Moneth 1664. our friends were peaceably Assembled together at their usual Meeting place at *Horsey Down* in *Southwark*, to wait upon God and to Worship him, where a servant of the Lord was declaring the truth to the people, at which time there came a company of arm'd Souldiers very rudely into the Meeting, and as they passed in through the Entry, one of them shot of his Musquet up into the House, and the Bullet went through several Sealings and came very near a Cradle where a Child use to lie: And afterwards they halled friends out of their Meeting, and brought them before three called Justices, (*viz.*) *John Bromsfield*, *John Lenthall*, and *George Moore*, who proceeded against them (according as is provided (in the aforesaid Act) against such who under pretence of Religious Worship do contrive Insurrections) although its well known to most people in this Nation, that we are no such people, that in our Meetings use such practices, but have oft given a publick testimony against them: so because friends could not for Conscience sake pay the several Fines (which was five pounds a piece) which they unjustly imposed upon them, they were to the number of 7 of them committed to the *White Lion* prison in *Southwark*, there to remain without Bail or main prize for the space of three Moneths. And that same night after they were brought into the Prison they were put into the common Ward amongst the Felons, who took Money by violence out of some of their Pockets, and kept it from them.

Again, on the 10th day of the Moneth aforesaid, being the first day of the Week, the Souldiers, (*viz.*) the Red-coats (Guarded with a party of Horse) came to the aforesaid Meeting House at *Horsey Down*, where our friends were again peaceably Assembled in the fear of the Lord to Worship him; And the said Souldiers took many of them out of their peaceable Meeting, and being carried unto the Guard at *Margers Hill*, the aforesaid Justices (so called) came and proceeded to try them as aforesaid by

by the late Act, but when the Witnesses came they could not at all prove that they were met under any pretence of Worship or Religious Exercises; yet notwithstanding the said Justices imposed Fines on them of five pound a piece. And for refusing to pay the said Fines, they were committed and sent to the *White Lion* Prison aforesaid, (to the number of 13. of them) there to remain without Bail or main prize, for the space of three Moneths.

And upon the 17th day of the fifth Moneth aforesaid, according to our usual manner, our friends were peaceably Assembled together at our own hired House at *Mile-end Green*, and in the time of their Meeting, there came several armed Soldiers rushing in through the yard, and set Guards at the doors that none might pass out or come in; and after a while a servant of the Lord stood up to declare the word of the Lord to the people, and as he was speaking and mentioning the name of the Lord, there came in *William Rider* and *George Marshall*, and one of them in enmity and contempt, said in the name of the Devil; And commanded the Soldiers to pluck him down that was speaking, which was accordingly done, and they also took the rest of Men-friends to the number 32. and brought them into another room of the same house, before the said *Marsh* and *Rider* called Justices of the Peace, who there examined them of their names, places of their abode, and age, &c. and read to them some part of the aforesaid Act made to prevent and suppress Seditious Convencicles, in which Insurrections are plotted and contrived, which Act doth not at all reach us, we being no such people which that Act maketh mention of; yet they proceeded to charge several Fines upon us (which we refusing to pay, because we were not transgressours.) They committed us to Prison in *Newgate* in *London*, there to remain without Bail or Main prize for the space of three Moneths, which is the utmost Penalty for the first offence (as they call it) of the late Act aforesaid.

Again, upon the 24th day of the 5th Moneth aforesaid, our Friends being met together peaceably in the fear of the Lord, to wait upon him, and to Worship him at their usual Meeting place

(3)  
place ne at *Wheeler street* in *Spittles-field*, there came one called  
Captain *Longman*, and with him two Files of Musquetters, and  
two Constables with their guard of Halberds, Javlines, and o-  
ther weapons. And the said *Longman* using many evil words  
to his friends led the men one by one, and committed them to the  
Constables and Souldiers with the rest of their Guard, who  
brought them to a house not far off the Meeting place, and there  
kept them till two called Justices came to them (viz.) one *C. Vir-*  
*field* of *Higgsdowne*, and *Richard Abell*, who examined them of  
their names and wherefore they met, &c. And then Fined them  
(to the number of 18.) some 5 s. some 2 s. some 1 s. which for  
Conscience sake they could not pay being no Offenders, and so  
was by the aforesaid *Purfield* and *Abell* committed and sent to  
*Newgate*, there to remain without Bail or Main prize for the  
space of six days, and with them were committed ten more ta-  
ken at the same Meeting, whose names they knew not; And  
this is to be observed by the Reader, that their committing  
friends for so short a time, is not because of any tenderness in  
the Magistrates towards friends, but contrarywise, because  
they may the sooner get them in Prison again upon the second  
and third offences as they call it, in order to the fulfilling of their  
envious wills, which is to expel us out of the land of our Na-  
tivity.

Again, upon the 24th of the 5th Moneth aforesaid, being the  
first day of the Week, according to our usual manner, and at  
our usual Meeting-house at *Mile-end Green* in the Parish of *Step-*  
*ney*, our friends were Assembled in the fear of the Lord to wait  
upon him, and to Worship him in Spirit and in Truth, and when  
they were thus Assembled, there came a Constable with a Com-  
pany of Souldiers and Watch-men armed and violently rushed  
into our Meeting, and the Constable commanded the doors to  
be shut, and without producing any warrant for what he did, he  
ordered the said Souldiers and Watch-men every one to lay  
hold of a man which accordingly they did, and led them forth  
of the Meeting, and so to the Tower, and there kept them a  
while, and then and there brought them before those called Ju-  
stices, who demanded their names, places of abode, &c. to which  
answer

answer was given, and then because for Conscience sake they could not pay the several Fines unrighteously imposed on them, they were committed and sent to *Newgate* Prison, there to remain without Bail or Main prize for the space of six days.

Again, upon the 31<sup>th</sup> day of the 5<sup>th</sup> Moneth aforesaid, being the first day of the Week, our friends were again Assembled in the fear of the Lord to wait upon him, and to Worship him in the truth at our usual Meeting-house at *Mile-end-Green*, in the Parish of *Stepney*, where *ohn Higgins* was Ministring the word of truth to the people, and there came divers Constables and other armed men, who violently rushed in upon them, and without producing any warrant for what they did they laid violent hands on them, and halled them out, and had them to an Alehouse, where was *William Rider* and *George Marsh* called Justices with divers others, and being brought before them they asked their names, &c. to which answer was given according to freedom, then they imposed a Fine upon them, some five shillings, some more, some less, for Meeting together to Worship God, which they say is an offence of their Law, which for Conscience sake friends could not pay, being indeed no transgressours of any just or righteous Law; whereupon they were committed and sent to the common Prison at *Newgate*, there to remain without Bail or Main prize for the sprce of five days.

Again, upon the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the 6<sup>th</sup> Moneth being the first day of the Week, after our friends were parted from their Meeting place near *Wheele-street*, the most part of them, only some remaining behind were seized in the Street and Alley, at the command of one *C. Pirfield* and *T. Swallow* Justices, so called and were brought to an Alehouse, and from thence committed to *Newgate* by the said *Pirfield* and *Swallow*, there to remain without Bail or Main prize for the space of six dayes, some of them being as they said for the first offence, and some for the second, and yet they had no witness or evidence to prove that they had met together.

And upon the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the 6<sup>th</sup> Moneth aforesaid, friends being again peaceably met together, not under colour of Religious

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gious Exercises, to plot or contrive Insurrections, but really to Worship God in spirit and in truth at our aforesaid Meeting-house at *Mile-end-Green*, where there was a friend that was Ministering the truth to the people, there came divers Constables and other armed men violently in amongst them, and halled them out before *William Rider* and *Thomas Player* called Justices, to the number of 31. and after some examination imposed several Fines upon them for their Assembling together as aforesaid, which being altogether Antichristian, they could not for Conscience sake pay; whereupon they were committed and sent to *Newgate*, there to remain without Bail or main prize for the space of four days, some being for the first offence as they called it, and some for the second, and several of them who did not declare their names they committed, to Prison there to remain till they were delivered by due course of Law.

Again, on the 14th day of the 6th Moneth aforesaid, being the first day of the Week, our friends were Assembled according to their wonted manner at their usual Meeting-place at *Mile-end-Green*, where there was a friend that was Ministering the truth to the people, in which time there came divers Constables and other armed men; and by force and violence halled them out of their peaceable Meeting, and brought them before the aforesaid *William Rider* and *George Mark*, who examined them whether their coming there were to Worship God? to which they could not deny, but innocently confess it, and vindicated their right and privilege so to do, being peaceable subjects of this Nation, and in no wise disturbers of the peace, for which they were declared by the said *Mark* and *Rider* to be convicted as transgressours of the late Law made to suppress seditious Conventicles, some of the first offence, some of the second as they call it, and some others that were for the third, and for refusing to pay the several Fines then imposed upon them for their thus Meeting to Worship God, they were committed and sent to the common Goal in *Newgate* there to remain without Bail or main prize for the space of two days, such as were for the first and second account, and such as were on the third account to be kept till the next Goal-delivery, on order to their tryal for Transportation.

(8)  
And upon the 14th day of the 6th Moneth aforesaid, being the first day of the Week, we being peaceably met together at our usual meeting-place at the *Bull and Mouth* in *London*, the Sheriffs with a certain number of Millitary officers, and with guards consisting of the Mayors-officers, Sheriffs-men, City Marshals and their men, with the Constables Guards, came and entered our meeting, and in a furious manner prest towards the place where a friend was declaring the way of truth and salvation unto the people, and commanded him to come down, which he being not free to do at their command, two of the officers stepped upon a form near unto him, and in a great fury drew their Swords, and one of them with his hanger smote him, and others of them laid on several friends with their swords and staves till one of them broke his sword, and so when they had pulled out the friend that was speaking, they came in more of them and halled out friends both men and women, and brought them one, and two, and three, and four at a time to the number of about 200 in all to *Guild-Hall*, and several friends they took in the streets that only stood to behold the cruelty of their proceedings towards us, and brought them also to the same place, where they were kept close prisoners till about mid-night, and so that their works of darkness might not appear to the publick view of the people, they ordered the Marshal of the City with a very great guard of halberd-men to conduct us to *Newgate* about that time of night, which with Torches lighted was accordingly done, though no *Mittimus* at all was sent with us, and the next day about 20 of us were called for again to *Guild-Hall*, where they were brought before the Mayor, and being examined concerning their meeting contrary to the late Act, several Fines were imposed on them, which because for Conscience sake they could not pay, being no transgressours of any just Law, they were recommitted, one for three moneths, and another for one moneth, and others for 14 days, though that which they called their offences were all alike. And on the 14 day following they called for about 12 more of us, that were taken the first day of the Week aforesaid, to the *Guild-Hall* before the Mayor and *Thomas Adams* Alderman, where we were examined apart concerning our meeting contrary to the late Act as they said, and when they had imposed several Fines on us, and we refused to pay

pay as transgressours, we were recommitted to *Newgate*, there to remain for the space of 14 days, and the 6th day of the same week about 60 more of the same Company that were taken at the *Bull and Maule* the first day of the week aforesaid, were called for to the *Old Baily*, where the Mayor was with some others, who examined them concerning their meeting as aforesaid, which being done and the several Fines imposed on them, refused to be paid, they were recommitted to the prison at *Newgate*, there to remain for the space of 9 days without Bail or main prize, so the illegalness of their proceedings against us may hereby be understood, for they kept many of us full five days without any warrant, or being brought before any Magistrate, which is contrary to any known Law of *England*.

Also it is observable, that the witnesses that came in against us when we were examined at the *Guild-Hall*, were such that made no Conscience of their words, for when friends that were taken in the street were brought before the Mayor and examined, these witnesses would testify that they took them in the meeting.

Moreover on the 16th day of the moneth aforesaid, being the 3d day of the week, when we were met together in our prison room to wait upon God and worship him, one of the Keepers men came in amongst us, and fetcht him away that was speaking, and put him in the hole where murderers use to be put after sentence of death, and there kept a certain time. And on the 18th day of the moneth aforesaid, being the 5th day of the week, as we were again assembled in our prison room in the same manner and to the same end aforesaid, the Keepers man came in amongst us again, and because he could not come at the friend that was speaking by reason of the throng of friends that stood about him, he fell laying on both men and women with a great staff, and some of the Felons that were with him did also beat friends with their fists, and one of the women thieves came with a knife, swearing she would stab friends, and did attempt so to do though prevented, yet after a little season that tumult was qualified, and the friend that was speaking amongst us was taken away and put into another part of the prison.

Again, upon the 21th day of the 6th moneth aforesaid friends being peaceably assembled in the fear of the Lord to wait upon

him and worship him in their meeting-house at *Mile-end-Green*, there came several Constables with their guard, behaving themselves very rudely and uncivilly towards friends, but after a while came two called Justices, *Tho. Play. r* and *Will. Rider*, and one of them commanded that the friend who was declaring the truth to the people should be fetcht out, which was hastily done, and the rest after him were fetcht out one by one, and there examined by the said *Player* and *Rider* concerning the cause of their being at that place, to which they answered, that their coming was to worship the Lord; then they asked friends if they would pay half a Crown a piece, to which they answered, nay, they could not make themselves transgressours, when they knew they were innocent; whereupon they were committed eleven of them to the common Goal at *Newgate*, there to remain without Bail or main prize for the space of two days.

Moreover, upon the 21<sup>th</sup> day of the 6<sup>th</sup> moneth aforesaid, friends (as they themselves had declared) being constrained in their spirits to continue the assembling of themselves together at their usual meeting-place at the *Peal* in *Johns street*, there to wait upon the Lord and to worship him, there came amongst them one *Thomas Steaks*, and one *Rich. Thorndell*, and one *Matthews*, with many other Constables and others to assist them, and seized on the most of men-friends, and led them by the arm out of the meeting, and from thence to the Sessions-house called *Hick'es-hal*, and brought them up into an upper chamber where there was three called Justices of the peace, viz. *Reginald Fift r*, *John Smith*, *Tho. Lucy*, who examined every particular of them concerning the end of their meeting together, to which answer was given, that the intent of their meeting was to wait upon the Lord, so that they made their crime, and for so doing they fined them five shillings a piece, and because for Conscience sake they could not pay it being no transgressours of any righteous Law, they were committed and sent to *Newgate* to the number of about 28 there to remain without Bail or main prize for the space of 4 days, and then to be discharged.

Again, upon the 21<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> moneth aforesaid, friends being again peaceably assembled at the *Peal* and *Moun* to worship God in spirit and truth, the Marshal of the City with Constables and several military officers, and other assistants came with  
swords

swords and halberds, and entred our meeting-house, and violently halled out most or all that were there present assembled, and left them in the street, yet the doors being left open, and way being made for them, they returned into their meeting-house again, and a friend standing up to declare the truth to the people, was after a little time pulled down by one *Clarke*, Captain of a Train-band, and others with halberds, and carried away to the *Guild-Hall*, where several others were sent also, and whilst they were kept there, the Mayor of the City, with the Sheriffs and *Richard Brown*, with several officers of the City both civil and military came to the *Bull and Mouth*, and with carnal weapons entred the meeting the second time, and brought our friends before the Mayor and *Richard Brown*, who is a man so far from keeping the peace, that he is usually observed to be the first that breaks it; who then and there kicked some friends till thereby he drew blood from them, and pulled the hair off the heads of several men, and pinched several of the womens arms till they were black, by which all people may easily judge whether this man be fitly qualified to sit in the place of a Magistrate, or whether he be not more fit to have the Law executed upon him for those inhumane gross abuses offered by him to our friends, but the Mayor was more moderate and offered no such kind of abuses, yet proceeded to the examination of friends concerning their names, places of abode, &c which being done, they imposed several Fines on them that told their names, which was to the number of about 159 which Fines they could not for Conscience sake pay, whereupon they were committed to *Newgate* prison, there to remain without Bail or main prize for the space of 4 days, and by reason of the great number that were in the prison before, there was not house room allowed them to lie down one by another, nor yet scarcely to sit, by reason whereof many were contrained to walk upon the leads for several nights, and as for those who did not tell their names which were in number about 27 they were committed to *Bridge-well*, note here that though their *Mittimus* was made for 9 days, yet for dispatch of their intended work against us, they altered the *Mittimus* and ordered them to be discharged at 4 days end.

Again, on the 28 of the 6<sup>th</sup> moneth aforesaid, friends being peaceably met together at their meeting-place near *Wheeler-street*:

street to wait upon the Lord and to worship him, there came a company of souldiers, and by the command of C. Pufild and T. Swailon (called Justices, who were then present) took friends out of the meeting, and guarded them to an Alehouse, where they imposed several Fines upon them for their assembling to worship God, and friends refusing to pay their several Fines imposed, were committed and sent to the common Goal of *Newgate*, to the number of 33 there to remain without Bail or main prize for the space of ten days, only some of them to be kept till the next Goal-delivery to be proceeded against in order to tryal for Transportation.

And on the same day aforesaid, at *Mile-and-green* according to our wonted manner, friends were again assembled peaceably to wait upon the Lord, in which time there came a company of halberd men and kept guard over them, till 3 called Justices, viz. W. Rider, T. Player, and G. Mark, with a considerable party of souldiers came also, who fetcht friends out of their meeting, both men and women, in all between 30 & 40. And the said order with his company examined friends according to their usual manner, and committed them to *Newgate*, some on the first and some on the second offence as they call it, there to remain without Bail or main prize for the space of 24 hours, and some of them being on the 3 account, are to be proceeded against for Transportation, whose tryal we expect this present Sessions, but 4 of the aforesaid company being young Maids, they sent to *Bridewell*, two of which were put in the stocks.

Moreover, it is observable that six of our friends being passing through an alley between *John street* and *J. ase* the same day aforesaid were taken by Constables, and carried to *Hickses-hall* before 3 called Justices, who proceeded against them as usually they do when they take us out of our meetings, and sent them to *Newgate*, there to remain without Bail or main prize for the space of 3 days, only one of them to be kept on the 3d offence (as they call it) till the next Goal-delivery, in order to Transportation.

Again, upon the 28 aforesaid, our friends being peaceably assembled at the *Bul'* and *Mouth* according to their wonted manner to worship God, there came *Ant. Ba eman* Mayor, and our old adversary *R. Brown*, who hath not yet answered for the blood

of many that was not long since even stifled up in noysome holes and prisons through his occasion) and with their usual guards of both civil and military officers, and placed themselves near the door, and caused friends to be brought out before them, where they examined them according to their usual manner, and for refusing to pay the several fines by the said Magistrates (unrighteously) imposed on them, they were committed to the number of 60 at least and sent to *Newgate* (a back-way and not through the streets that their works of darkness might the less appear to the view of the world) here to be kept without bail or main prize for the space of 4 days, such of them as are for the 1 and 2 offence (as they call it) others of them that are on the 3 account, the Keeper of the prison into whose custody they are usually sent, receives orders from the Magistrates to observe their names, and to secure them till Goal delivery, and as the Keeper saith, he hath now in his custody about 19 which are (as he saith) to come to their tryal (for their 3 offence so called) this present Sessions; And this is still observable, that *R. Brown* according to his wonted manner did (the day above said) tear the hair of friends heads with his own hands, and pinch the women, and abuse many in a very inhumane and sad manner.

And this is very observable, that because their works of darkness (which they may well be ashamed of) should not appear or be much taken notice of; their usual manner is (after the time is expired that friends are committed for) to put them out of prison in the night season

So here all may see and take notice how vigilant some of the Magistrates of this City of *Lond.* are in suppressing the meetings and assemblies of the people of God, whose gathering and assembling is for no other end, but only to wait upon the Lord, and to worship him in spirit and truth according to the practice of the primitive Christians, and because we know; and are persuaded in our Consciences we cannot forsake this godly exercise, whatsoever we suffer for the continuance thereof: And we may appeal unto all sober people through this Nation (and to the witness of God in the hearts of our persecutors) who have known our manner of life and conversation, whether or no we have deserved these things at the hands of these men, or whether they are righteously or unrighteously inflicted upon us; And although they may say they have a Law for what they do, &c. And according to their Law they ought to do it, and if they should neglect the putting this Law in execution, they shall not be accounted the Kings friends, &c. I answer, so said the Jews concerning Christ: We have a Law,

Law, and by our Law he ought to die; and further said unto *Pilate*, if thou let this man alone thou art not *Cæsar's* friend; yet their saying they had a Law, &c. did not make their proceedings just, no more this Law (by which these Magistrates of *London* doth now proceed against us to prison us in order to banishment, and so to death (if we return again) bear them out in what they do, or render their proceedings just in Gods account in the day when the Lord shall arise to make Inquisition for the blood of his Saints and servants; and to render to every one a just reward according to their doings; neither in that day can the Law-makers bear out the Executioners of it, but every one must give an account to God for his own doings, therefore it concerns the Executioners of this Law (who have taken in hand this unrighteous (as it will prove) and cruel work) to consider what they are doing, and whether they can stand justified in the sight of God in what they do: For certainly (whether you will believe or no) the Lord is with us and will take our part, and will plead our cause, and what is done unto us, he takes as done unto himself; And they that strive to suppress us do not strive against us only, but against the Lord also who is (our strength) and in the end he will surely be too hard for them, and will grind them to powder and bruise them as in a mortar, except they speedily repent.

And furthermore, it may be seen how the enmity of the devourer doth appear in these proceedings, who the sooner to hasten this work of banishment (and death upon return) doth usually commit friends for a very few days; nay, sometime but for 24 hours that so they may have them soon again upon another account. Oh sad times indeed, when (according to appearance) the greatest favour that can be shewn us (if they proceed against us at all by the late Law) isto keep us in prison as long as they can; when in the mean time Drunkards and Stage players, and (I may say) all kind of Vice tolerated; and no notice taken of it by these men who are so zealously bent against an innocent and harmless people, that cannot run with them into the same excesses of Riot.

THE END.

